

Level the telecommunication competition playing field by forcing cable operators to compete in the same way that RBOCs and LECs operate, as an "essential facility". Cable operators should have to accommodate other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. This wholesale provisioning stimulates competition and benefits consumers. Chairman Powell: Cable TV has had enough protections over the last 30 years. Prying open access to their broadband networks will increase competition, lower costs to consumers (stop the year-in year-out rate increases the cable operators have build their business models on!), increase consumer choice and level the competitive playing field with other telecommunications companies.